

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS
MEETING OF THE SELECT BOARD
MINUTES

Date: April 13, 2021
Time: 10:00am
Place: Via Zoom Meeting
Egremont

Present remotely via zoom meeting were Chairman George McGurn, Vice-Chair Lucinda Fenn-Vermeulen, Board member Mary Brazie.

Others present via zoom: Mary McGurn, Juliette Haas, Laura Allen, Chuck Ogden, Don Coburn.

The meeting was audio and video recorded.

The Board voted unanimously to remove the \$9,875 funding request from the Affordable Housing Committee for site development. The Board felt that until an RFP was issued there was no need for funding.

The Compensation Committee will be meeting later in the day to discuss the compensation of the Board of Health Director and Town Clerk wages.

It is proposed that the Transfer Station alternate attendant hours be increased from 11 to 14 and that he work on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday instead of Saturday and Sunday. The budget would increase to about \$12,500. The Compensation Committee will look at this later in the day.

The Committee is recommending that the increase for non-exempt employees be 2.75% instead of 2%. Vice-Chairman Lucinda Vermeulen said she was grateful for the reconsideration.

Chairman McGurn didn't want to discuss the Board of Health Director wages until the Compensation Committee has made a recommendation. This and the Town Clerk and Sustainability Coordinator wages will be discussed at the meeting later in the day. Historic data shows that in past years the Tree Warden and the Town Clerk have received increases when other elected officials have not. There is no data on the reason why.

The Town was not successful in its attempt to obtain a grant to pay the \$10,000 costs for Wi-Fi at French Park. The Board voted unanimously to put an article on the Annual Town Meeting warrant for this item.

The Board voted unanimously to place articles on the Annual Town Meeting warrant to begin the two-part process to make the Board of Assessors, Tree Warden and Town Clerk appointed positions, with three-year terms. A second vote will need to take place at the 2022 Annual Town Election. It will be confirmed that the Moderator's position has to be remain elected.

Great Barrington Town Officials have drafted an executive summary of their investigation of the Southern Berkshire Ambulance Squad and has proposed a different payment schedule for the towns that are members. The Finance Committee has discussed this and has some additional questions. The Board agreed to keep the current amount of \$25,000 as the town's contribution to the SBA on the Annual Town Meeting warrant.

At the request of the proponent, the Board voted to remove the article from the Annual Town Meeting warrant to adopt the Community Preservation Act.

A preliminary budget amount of \$44,330 has been drafted by the Transportation Committee to cover wages, fuel, maintenance and testing. The current FY 21 budget amount of \$18,087 will be used to get an administrator on board to help with the driver hiring process, get drivers trained and tested, purchase office equipment and scheduling software. Anticipated revenue will be brought in from Alford and Mount Washington, from rider donations, and possibly from a stipend received from Berkshire Regional Transit Authority for an estimated amount of \$10,000 per year.

The Board voted unanimously to place an article on the Annual Town Meeting warrant to hire a construction administrator for the Library renovations project in the amount of \$30,000.

The Engineers for the Mount Washington Road reconstruction project have reported that after submission of the 25% design, they will need an additional \$335,000 to get to the 75% design phase. This will make the total engineering costs to date \$890,500. The original engineering estimate was for about \$1,200,000. The Board approved placing this article on the Annual Town Meeting warrant and vote to borrow this amount.

The Board voted unanimously to approve the Planning Board budget request in the amount of \$2,500.

The Board voted unanimously to approve the amount of \$1500 as the town's contribution to Fairview Hospital.

The Board re-stated its vote to approve the request for \$6,800 for Vocational Educational.

In a review of the warrant, the Board agreed that the following items will be borrowed which requires a secret ballot, 2/3, vote at the town meeting.

Dump Truck	\$270,000
Fire Truck	\$315,000
Building	\$275,000
Mount Wasington Road Engineering	\$335,000

An article to rescind the borrowing obligation for the Broadband will be on the warrant.

The sequencing of articles will be very important.

The Board agreed to putting another \$15,000 in the GASB 45 Stabilization Fund.

The Board voted unanimously to put the three required articles on the warrant for the Short-term rental properties: the 6% impact fee, 3% excise for managed units and 3% excise for owner occupied units.

The Moderator will be the one to decide what time to end if the meeting goes late.

Town Clerk Juliette Haas shared information with the Board, via email, regarding electronic voting clickers. The Board has not reviewed it. Early voting will be discussed at the April 20th meeting at the request of the Town Clerk.

Chairman McGurn confirmed the Board's next meetings will be on April 20 and April 27.

Adjournment took place at 11:54am

Mary Brazie,
Office Administrator

minutes.21/apr13

The recording of the minutes is on record at the Town Hall for 90 days. Anyone who wishes to may obtain a copy or listen to the recording at Town Hall. Attachments are on file at Town Hall.